

## MEETING SUMMARY | Lakes Subcommittee Committee Meeting 4

May 16, 2019

The following is a summary of the third meeting of the Lakes Subcommittee for Tuscaloosa's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Update process. Attached to this summary are the meeting attendance sheet and agenda.

### Welcome

---

Ms. Crites introduced guests: Stephen Middleton, UA Recreation, and Doug Phillips, Executive Producer of *Discovering Alabama*. In meeting three, the subcommittee requested that those individuals and groups be invited to discuss recreation and the Lakes.

### Current Regulations and Conditions

---

Ms. Crites reviewed each lake one at a time. The group chose to identify priority lists for each lake at the end of the discussion about the current regulations and conditions for each individual lake.

Harris Lake discussed priorities:

- Connectivity of trails to the rest of the land owned by the City (Lake Nicol)
- Outdoor exercise
- Passive areas
- Addition of water sports – paddling and canoeing
- Easy access (road)
- Addition of restrooms
- Non-motorized watercraft
- Trolling or electric motor only
- Geocaching

Lake Nicol discussed priorities:

- Pedestrian bridges
- True recreation areas
- Active areas/the lake being more active
- Trails
- Headquarters/visitor area (landing)

- Restrooms
- Charge for parking
- Leave no trace signage/campaign
- Monitored and managed for day use only
- Fees
- Geocaching

Other items discussed for Lake Nicol included:

- Property lines crossing some sloughs in the lake
- Lake Nicol is the most popular lake location for the University of Alabama students who rent equipment from UA Recreation.
- Clearly, there is demand for use of the lake
- Lake Nicol shouldn't compete with Lake Lurleen for camping and overnight activities
- Lake Nicol should keep with the natural theme to steer clear of water quality issues

Lake Tuscaloosa discussed priorities:

- Styrofoam ban
- Commercial at Tierce Marina/in general
- Floating docks at islands
- Lakefront land use
- Improve access
- Bathrooms
- Preservation
- Patrols increase
- Tag system at landings
- Boat stickers by City of Tuscaloosa
- Fine money goes to Lakes, not court
- Dock fees by square feet
- Fishing tournament fees
- Water ski course
- Wake boat regulations

## **Considerations**

---

Ms. Crites reviewed items for consideration with the subcommittee. Among other topics, the major items were boating traffic, aesthetics, and wildlife. The subcommittee spent time discussing fees for boating traffic and proposed that fees be doubled and enforcement added for all lakes (and that the fees and fines go back into the lakes budget). They proposed a permit and/or tag system (or a boat sticker) for access to the Lakes. The group noted that there are no current fees for fishing tournaments, and expressed a desire to amend – even if it was a low fee to start with. The subcommittee also discussed temporary water ski courses and

geocaching. The group discussed distance from dunes, docks, and shorelines for water ski courses, making sure that the banks would not be impacted. For geocaching, the group felt that trails and solid ground were a better idea than placing geocache locations in the water.

## **Priority Lists**

---

Ms. Crites asked the committee to put stickers next to their top priorities for each lake. The number of dots next to an activity indicates the number of votes.

Harris Lake:

- Connectivity of trails to the rest of the land owned by the City (Lake Nicol) (6)
- Outdoor exercise (0)
- Passive areas (1)
- Addition of water sports – paddling and canoeing (3)
- Easy access (road) (6)
- Addition of restrooms (4)
- Non-motorized watercraft (1)
- Trolling or electric motor only (3)
- Geocaching (1)

Lake Nicol:

- Pedestrian bridges (3)
- True recreation areas (4)
- Active areas/the lake being more active (0)
- Trails (6)
- Headquarters/visitor area (landing) (1)
- Restrooms (5)
- Charge for parking (3)
- Leave no trace signage/campaign (4)
- Monitored and managed for day use only (1)
- Fees (1)
- Geocaching (1)

Lake Tuscaloosa discussed priorities:

- Styrofoam ban (0)
- Commercial at Tierce Marina/in general (5)
- Floating docks at islands (1)
- Lakefront land use (4)
- Improve access (2)
- Bathrooms(0)
- Preservation (1)

- Patrols increase (4)
- Tag system at landings (0)
- Boat stickers by City of Tuscaloosa (7)
- Fine money goes to Lakes, not court (1)
- Dock fees by square feet (7)
- Fishing tournament fees (4)
- Water ski course (0)
- Wake boat regulations (1)

## **Group Discussion**

---

The group discussed land uses and land use character to conclude the meeting. The subcommittee specifically discussed the following:

1. Mixed use developments being attractive and in context for the surrounding land uses.
2. Identify key nodes and intersections for commercial and office uses – some shops and commercial spaces need to exist.
3. There may be a need for a very limited commercial category in Lakeside Living.
4. The group would like the consultant team to bring examples of lakeside living – they loved what the team brought for carriage houses and housing, and would like to see the same for the Lake.
5. The intersection of McWrights Ferry Road and New Watermelon Road is different than the area near Harbor Ridge. We need to be sure that sub-zoning categories can exist in the different Future Land Use Character Types.
6. The subcommittee members debated whether multifamily zoning was appropriate next to Lake Tuscaloosa and if it should be included in Lakeside Living.

## **Next Steps**

---

The subcommittee will not meet again unless the Steering Committee deems it necessary. The next Steering Committee is June 5.